

LS5826 Released Document No. 70

From: Anna Robinson
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2016 4:39 PM
To: Pablo Carpay <Pablo.Carpay@aec.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Multiple voting by electorate for FE13 - request from ABC online journalist Mr Paul Crossley [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For-Official-Use-Only

Hi Pablo – confirming we agreed earlier to release the MV information for 2013?

Cheers
Anna

For-Official-Use-Only

From: Phil Diak
Sent: Monday, 14 November 2016 9:50 AM
To: Anna Robinson <Anna.Robinson@aec.gov.au>
Cc: Andrew Gately <Andrew.Gately@aec.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Multiple voting by electorate for FE13 - request from ABC online journalist Mr Paul Crossley [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For-Official-Use-Only

Hi Anna

Emails refer. As flagged in our corridor chat late last week, I'm re-sending this one, as the journalist is likely to chase me again soon.

Cheers
Phil

Phil Diak | Director Media and External Communication
Education & Communications Branch Executive | Education & Communications Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
T: (02) 6271 4415 | M: 7 [REDACTED]



For-Official-Use-Only

From: Phil Diak
Sent: Thursday, 3 November 2016 10:50 AM
To: Anna Robinson (anna.robinson@aec.gov.au) <anna.robinson@aec.gov.au>
Cc: Andrew Gately <Andrew.Gately@aec.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Multiple voting by electorate for FE13 - request from ABC online journalist Mr Paul Crossley [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For-Official-Use-Only

Hi Anna
and Andrew

Email trail refers. As discussed, Mr Crossley is seeking MV data by all electorates for FE13.

A long email trail refers (commenced Wed 19 October).

Grateful for advice / approved response to this inquiry.

Cheers
Phil

Phil Diak | Director Media and External Communication
Education & Communications Branch Executive | Education & Communications Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
T: (02) 6271 4415 | M: 7 [REDACTED]



For-Official-Use-Only

From: media
Sent: Thursday, 3 November 2016 10:45 AM
To: 'Crossley.Paul@abc.net.au' <Crossley.Paul@abc.net.au>
Cc: media <media@aec.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Multiple voting - AEC response [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For-Official-Use-Only

Hi Paul

Acknowledge your point. I will endeavour to find out and get back to you.

Cheers
Phil

Phil Diak | Director Media and External Communication
Education & Communications Branch Executive | Education & Communications Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
T: (02) 6271 4415 | M: 7 [REDACTED]

For-Official-Use-Only

From: Paul Crossley [<mailto:Crossley.Paul@abc.net.au>]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 November 2016 2:39 PM
To: media <media@aec.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Multiple voting - AEC response [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thanks.

Obviously an FOI is second best option for us as it takes time to process.

Before I do so can you please confirm that (a) the AEC will not provide us with the requested data (b) why the AEC will not provide us with that information, given the AEC is a public organisation.

Regards
Paul

From: media [<mailto:media@aec.gov.au>]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 November 2016 2:36 PM
To: Paul Crossley <Crossley.Paul@abc.net.au>
Cc: media <media@aec.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Multiple voting - AEC response [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For-Official-Use-Only

Hi Paul,

Thanks for the context about your queries.

I am unable to advise on making a FOI request as it is entirely an applicant's prerogative. I also am unable to forecast the result of a request regarding if the data is able to be provided.

Cheers
Phil

Phil Diak | Director Media and External Communication
Education & Communications Branch Executive | Education & Communications Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
T: (02) 6271 4415 | M: 7 [REDACTED]

For-Official-Use-Only

From: Paul Crossley [<mailto:Crossley.Paul@abc.net.au>]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 November 2016 12:31 PM
To: media <media@aec.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Multiple voting - AEC response [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thanks for getting back to me.

Is there any way to access the data? Is this something you suggest we make a FOI for?

Please be assured that the point of this piece is not to cast doubt on the competency of the AEC or criticise the organisation. We are a data journalism unit and would like to visualise where the multiple voting occurred. In the same way that we obtain data from the ABS and visualise that for certain things. It's unclear to me why the public is not entitled to know this information. By its very nature, privacy considerations do not arise with secret ballot voting.

Regards
Paul

From: media [<mailto:media@aec.gov.au>]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 November 2016 12:20 PM
To: Paul Crossley <Crossley.Paul@abc.net.au>
Cc: media <media@aec.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Multiple voting - AEC response [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For-Official-Use-Only

Hi Paul

I have looked into this including checking with someone who has just today returned from leave.

Sure, the 2013 process has been complete for some time, and it was well publicised at the time that approx. 7,700 cases went forward as referrals from the AEC to the AFP etc. The AFP/CDPP did not undertake prosecutions after assessing the cases and the likelihood of successful prosecution before a court.

However, it appears that the AEC did not publish multiple voting data by electoral division for the 2013 federal election. (I have also checked the joint standing committee on electoral matters Australian Parliament House website pages pertaining the 2013 federal election.)

Cheers
Phil

Phil Diak | Director Media and External Communication
Education & Communications Branch Executive | Education & Communications Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
T: (02) 6271 4415 | M: 7 [REDACTED]



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For-Official-Use-Only

From: Paul Crossley [<mailto:Crossley.Paul@abc.net.au>]
Sent: Tuesday, 1 November 2016 11:37 AM
To: media <media@aec.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Multiple voting - AEC response [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Phil

Any progress with getting the 2013 data? I note that the AEC's objections to providing me with the 2016 data is that it is "not appropriate to compile the data you seek midstream through a complex process", but surely the 2013 process is complete.

Look forward to hearing from you.

regards
Paul

From: media [<mailto:media@aec.gov.au>]
Sent: Thursday, 20 October 2016 12:50 PM
To: Paul Crossley <Crossley.Paul@abc.net.au>
Cc: media <media@aec.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Multiple voting - AEC response [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For-Official-Use-Only

OK thanks Paul

For-Official-Use-Only

From: Paul Crossley [<mailto:Crossley.Paul@abc.net.au>]
Sent: Thursday, 20 October 2016 12:44 PM
To: media <media@aec.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Multiple voting - AEC response [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thanks.

Look forward to hearing their response in due course. The raw data is fine as we intend to do some analysis.

Regards
Paul

From: media [<mailto:media@aec.gov.au>]
Sent: Thursday, 20 October 2016 12:43 PM
To: Paul Crossley
Cc: media
Subject: RE: Multiple voting - AEC response [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For-Official-Use-Only

Hi Paul

I have a look at the 2013 federal election JSCEM inquiry / AEC submissions site and documents and couldn't see anything. I have referred your follow-up internally to see if they can advise.

Cheers
Phil

Phil Diak | Director Media and External Communication
Education & Communications Branch Executive | Education & Communications Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
T: (02) 6271 4415 | M: 0413 452 539



For-Official-Use-Only

From: Paul Crossley [<mailto:Crossley.Paul@abc.net.au>]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 October 2016 2:25 PM
To: Phil Diak <Phil.Diak@aec.gov.au>
Cc: media <media@aec.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Multiple voting - AEC response [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thanks Phil

Are the figures by polling booth/electorate available for 2013?

Regards
Paul

From: Phil Diak [<mailto:Phil.Diak@aec.gov.au>]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 October 2016 2:23 PM
To: Paul Crossley
Cc: media
Subject: Multiple voting - AEC response [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For-Official-Use-Only

To: Mr Paul Crossley ABC

Hi Paul

Letters have been sent by the AEC to individuals where our comparisons of certified (voter) lists show an apparent multiple mark against that voter. It should be noted that those apparent multiple marks do not necessarily indicate 'multiple voting' - hence the process of contacting the elector. Consistent with AEC testimony provided last evening to Senate estimates I can provide a breakdown by state/territory for you, as shown below.

The AEC is currently part-way through a comprehensive process of seeking written responses to the letters and assessing them. This is also process undertaken with the involvement of the relevant AEC divisional returning officer.

For these reasons it is not appropriate to compile the data you seek midstream through a complex process.

The AEC will, however, provide submissions to the federal parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters on the 2016 federal election, including regarding multiple voting, in due course. Submissions to the Committee are published on their website.

	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	
Number of apparent multiple marks	7 354	4 739	2 893	1 748	1 171	373	288	

Cheers
Phil

Phil Diak | Director Media and External Communication
Education & Communications Branch Executive | Education & Communications Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
T: (02) 6271 4415 | M: 0413 452 539



~~For-Official-Use-Only~~

~~For-Official-Use-Only~~

From: Paul Crossley [<mailto:Crossley.Paul@abc.net.au>]
Sent: Wednesday, 19 October 2016 12:00 PM
To: media <media@aec.gov.au>
Subject: Multiple voting

Hello

I am writing in relation to Tom Rogers' appearance before Senate Estimates yesterday in which he mentioned that 18,343 people had their name checked off at polling booths more than once in the most recent Federal Election.

Could you please provide a breakdown of which booths and electorates these "multiple votes" occurred. For instance, in booth x there were 10 instances of people being checked off twice, 2 instances of being checked off three times etc.

Thanks
Paul



Paul Crossley
Journalist, ABC News - Digital Storytelling

T: +61 2 8333 3109 E: crosslev.paul@abc.net.au



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